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## EAST-END WATER FAMINE. CONTAMINATED SUPPLY.

mission from the Thames Conservancy to

mission from the Thames Conservancy to take water from the River Thames for road watering purposes. Dr. Alexander, medical officer of health for Poplar and Bow, has analysed some samples of water taken from the mains of the East London Waterworks Company in Poplar. In several instances the analysis has shown that the water was totally unfit for drinking purposes. The

**INCREASE OF THE DEATH-RATE.**  
Dr. Taylor, the medical officer of health, presented an alarming statement at the Mill and Vestry on Wednesday. He stated that he had received numerous complaints of the quality of the water now being pumped, and

had verified several, with the result that he found the water fishy and stinking. He recommended that the public be advised to let all water before using for domestic purposes. The sewers were getting choked, and unless supply was made constant terrible results would follow. Already the death-rate had gone up to 32.7 per 1,000, or 11.0 more than the rest of London.—It was decided to place the hamlet with the doctor's advice, and call on the L.C.C. to request the company give a constant supply.

**BAGGERS' PROTEST.**

At Hockney Tower Hall on Thursday night

a crowded public meeting of the ratepayers of Hackney was held to protest against the unnecessary and tyrannical action of the London Waterworks Company in depriving the inhabitants of water for domestic purposes while at the same time they were charging the full rate for such supply. The following

ing resolution was carried unanimously. "That in the opinion of this meeting of the ratepayers of Hackney, the East London Waterworks Company has failed to fulfil engagements to supply the ratepayers of Hackney with a constant and sufficient supply of water for domestic purposes, and su-

failure has been a source of danger to the health of the parish."—An overflow meeting was held outside the hall.

**MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN AT BIRMINGHAM.**

Speaking on Friday at a banquet given to the Birmingham Conservative Club to the Unionist members for Birmingham and adjoining district, Mr. J. Chamberlain said that the moral of the general election was that the discreditable policy of "rolling" and of "cup filling" had been severely condemned by the good sense of the country.

English people. The Unionists of the Midland district were entitled to claim credit for a consistent, loyal, and patriotic maintenance of the Unionist alliance. That alliance had been an essential condition of their success, and to have maintained it was a great feat. There was no previous instance in history in which a coalition had lasted through three general elections, and had at the same time been stronger than before. His belief was that the alliance would now be permanent.

**THE SPEAKERSHIP.**  
We understand that the Government  
do not resist the re-election of Mr. Gully  
Speaker of the House of Commons.

**COLLIERY DISASTER.**  
SUSPECTED LOSS OF 14 LIVES.  
It is feared that 14 lives have been  
lost through a disaster at No. 1, Alchenha-

Colliery situated about midway between Saltcoats and Stevenston. It is supposed that some old workings, in which water had accumulated, had been broken in upon, thus setting the water free to enter the present workings. The pithead man at No. 4 shaft became aware that something had gone wrong below, as the men were signalling to be brought to the surface. The first one to come up reported that the water had broken in, and the pit was being rapidly flooded. The men were raised with all possible speed.

The Central News correspondent at coats telegraphs:—The 14 men imprisoned in the Alchenharvie Colliery have not yet reached though efforts to rescue continue incessantly. The timber rails and debris piled along the workings by the flood have jammed the road, keeping the water flowing freely. Charges of dynamite have exploded to clear away the obstruction.

**LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.**  
**CHAIRMAN'S RESIGNATION.**  
Lord G. Hamilton intimated at the weekly meeting of the School Board that owing to the Governor's appointment to which he had accepted the honor of resigning the chairmanship of the board.—Mr. D. gave notice that when the time arrived he would move a vote of thanks to Lord George for his services in the chair.—Mr. Stanley said he would be glad to second that proposal.—It was reported that the clergymen—Church of England and Catholic re-

tively—had been selected to overlook the return instruction of the children in the Drury-Lane Industrial School, and the board decided to appoint a principal teacher belonging to the Church of England and another acting as delegates for the rev. gentleman, a view of the school together with a report submitted for the year ending March last was, in discussion, received. The board adjourned for the summer holidays till Oct. 3.

S	M	1	5	2	1	3	13	10	48	11	7	6	35	6	58	5	4	3
S	M	1	5	2	1	4	11	16	11	43	7	17	7	86	6	6	3	
T	W	2	3	2	2	4	0	1	0	1	7	55	8	10	7	8	3	
T	W	3	5	3	2	0	0	1	8	8	4	8	2	8	4	7	8	
T	W	3	3	6	3	2	0	5	0	1	6	8	5	9	18	6	7	
T	F	4	7	4	5	2	1	8	1	3	5	9	5	9	6	1	8	
S	S	4	3	8	4	5	2	1	5	6	2	3	9	5	10	6	7	

Swansea parish church, an ancient historic edifice, is to be re-built at a cost of £24,000.

Lord Salisbury returned to town from

field, and gave audience to various members of the Diplomatic Corps. A Cabinet Council has been summoned to meet next week.

Benjamin Aaskham, a young private in Grenadier Guards, was sentenced to months' hard labour, at Westminster, for assaulting a policeman who ejected him from a public-house.







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hand tore at the  
it, pole and all,  
the next moment,  
planted blow, sent  
he howling on his back,  
he door, could be  
sent of the echoing  
way to the street.  
continued.

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**NUISANCE.**  
Michael Flynn, 34,  
home from a regi-  
Agra, was charged  
Francis O'Connor,  
smyrne-row, Chelsea,  
accompanied home in a cab  
by his wife. When they  
arrived at the  
they arrived to assist  
On being told that  
not required, he  
in the face, and  
Prosecutor followed  
ly saw him in the  
ble. He struggled  
, and slipped his  
ered into a lodging-  
ence he emerged a  
ealed in a fresh coat  
constable recognis-  
n to the station.—  
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London than cab  
with the option of

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**STRAD?**  
tally been trying to  
whether a certain  
ivarius or not, and  
Hungarian violinist,  
give evidence as an  
to have said:—"I  
g the violin for 50  
played on 10,000 in-  
would give an aver-  
ntable violin per year.  
men is enviable:

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**MARY TABLE.**  
to have been put off Full  
election. Very few new  
-ed, and even these few  
-acter. One has to fall  
periodicals, the supply of  
There is plenty both  
k as in the "English  
-d, which is again strong  
man at Home" also pre-  
to its numerous  
Mrs. Foran, of Notting-  
as an interesting scenar-  
victory on record in  
England. It is a large-  
in the highest style of  
-traits of the leading  
ht on the Unionist side  
-publish a cheap edition  
-eity's Radical novel,  
-which made such a stir  
and Messrs. Chapman  
within reach of the masses  
is British, and "the wife's"  
"The contents are com-  
an from the Chelsea sage's  
page the volume has  
the deep thinking old  
man's Magazine" is a feast  
quite a pleasure to read  
ounted periodical. Part  
of of Adversity" will con-  
in his opinion that it is  
course of issues. Messrs.  
, the well-known silver-  
-street, and our accept-  
-ornamented electro-plated  
-room table, with a capital  
Lord Salisbury looking  
It will certainly be a  
"and we trust that its  
approve, as the kindly girls  
of the cause."

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**Watches**  
IN THE  
FINEST AND FINEST TIME  
IS EVER MADE.  
THOUSANDS of Watches in  
of the World.

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**Watches.**  
IN MEN, GOLD CASES,  
£12 12s.

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**MADE THREE - QUARTER**  
Lever, Jewelled, 15 actions, in  
Balance, Patent Enlarged  
movement, Frost-Proof Band, knopp  
and is double the strength and  
endurance of any watch.

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**THE WATCH** is made in four  
Gentlemen and Youth, or in  
Ladies. All three Cases, Enlarged  
Artists and a Large Size for  
Children.

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**THE Silver Case, with Strong**  
Gold, £2 10s. Gold Oval  
Gold, £10 10s.

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**will send any of the above**  
part of the world free and as  
of F.O.D. sent at G.F.O.

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**THE largest and best of**  
many 30 years of Prices and  
class of WATCH from £2 10s.  
CHAINS, JEWELLERY, and  
on application to

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**BENSON,**  
H.M. THE QUEEN,  
JUDGATE HILL, E.C.,  
LONDON.

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**Manufacturing SOUTH HOUSE,**  
LAVAGE YARD, and BOY-  
BURY, K.C.

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in a considerable income free  
the post free

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**Quality Tapestry Carpets,**  
ed patterns and colourings, as  
usually sold at 2s. 6d. per yard, at  
low price at 1s. 9d. per yard,  
in Borders to suit, thus a Bor-  
dered Carpet 8ft. by 12ft. can be  
d for 21s. 6s., or one 12ft. by 12ft.  
n, for 21s.

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**BEDSTEADS**  
BROTHERS  
BROTHERS  
BROTHERS  
BROTHERS  
BROTHERS

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**INOLUENA, for Nurseries,**  
ed Rooms, Offices, Public  
Entrance Halls,  
estries, in plain Colours, Tiles,  
Decorations, and a host of new and  
tremely Durable—MAPLE and  
O. are the largest retailers of  
Inolunum in the world.

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**The largest and most convenient**  
Establishment in the World—  
**BROTHERS and SONS.**







**WOOLF BROTHERS.**

WOOLF.







## LAST WEEK'S ITEMS.

Herr Gerlich, formerly Consul-general, has been attached to the German Embassy in London as agricultural specialist.

Prince and Princess Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and the Princess Clementine, his mother, left Coburg on Saturday on their return to Carlsbad.

Major-General Gascogne, late of the Scots Guards, is mentioned as his probable successor.

The Home Office has sanctioned plans for the manufacture of cordite at Dartford, and notice to this effect was served on Saturday on the local authorities.

The Earl of Verulam died at his seat, Gorbunbury St. Albans, last week, in his 87th year. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Viscount Grimston.

The camp of the Northumberland Artillery Militia, near Berwick, has been flooded by the heavy rains of the past few days, and the men have been compelled to adjourn to the town to sleep.

A Hythe travelling showman named Chittcock was fined £5 6d. for turning out a lame horse to search for food and water.

At Heywood on Saturday a widow named Hallows attempted to commit suicide by drinking poison. Medical aid was at once procured, but she lies in a dangerous condition.

Edward Jennings was charged at Bristol last week with stealing 10d. from George Knowles. Both were bathing at Bedminster when Jennings stole the money from Knowles' pockets—10s.

Annie Lloyd was charged with stealing a watch, chain, and other articles, value £5 10s, the property of Mary Jane Bridgewater. The articles were pledged by prisoner, who had lodged with prosecutor—6 weeks.

The funeral of Lord Donington took place last week at Donington, Derby. The chief mourners were the Earl and Countess of Donington, Hon. Evelyn Hastings, Hon. Gilbert Hastings, and the Duke of Norfolk.

On Saturday the Duke of Devonshire, Highgate, lent for the occasion by Mr. Francis Reckitt.

The Duke and Duchess of York, the Princess Victoria of Wales, and party visited the Imperial Institute on Saturday, and were accompanied by the Duke of Devonshire, Highgate, and the Duke of Norfolk.

Daniel cables an extraordinary story of an assault on Mr. C. Vanderbilt in New York last week by a man named Dwyer, who was arrested, it is alleged, with an explosive bomb in his coat pocket.

The French cruiser Cosmao has received orders to take prisoners and coal on board at once for a period of three months, and to proceed as speedily as possible to Tangier.

The vessel accordingly left last week.

Router states that Count Golschowski could not visit Prince Hohenlohe at Aussee, as contemplated, because the latter had left for his shooting box in the mountains where telegrams could not reach him.

The train conveying the Grand Duke of Luxembourg was greatly delayed last week owing to a goods train which was in front of it going off the line. Its engine-driver was killed, and three railway officials injured.

The Herin "National Zeitung" is informed from an authoritative source that all published reports of the contents of the Emperor William's letter to the Czar are mere conjecture.

Mr. G. W. Balfour, the new Chief Secretary of Ireland, has advised Mr. F. W. Crossley that he is bringing the question of the development of tourist traffic in Ireland under the consideration of the Lord-lieutenant.

A youth named Allen was admitted into Derby Infirmary on Saturday suffering from severe shot wounds in the knee, and it is alleged that he was shot that morning by a farmer while gathering mushrooms near Belper.

The Lequeux four mills at Jersey, the largest establishment of the kind in the Channel Islands, have been completely destroyed by fire, as well as the adjoining cottages. A policeman was seriously injured by some falling timber.

Fourteen men, forming the crew of the Norwegian barque Condor, were landed at Lowestoft last week by the trawler Verena, of that port. The Condor caught fire on Friday, and the crew took to the boats, from which they were taken by the trawler.

Joseph Edwards, 84, of Sherbourne, Warwick, was found drowned in Sherbourne Brook. He was found with one hand clutching his stick and the other a heavy stone at the bottom of the brook. Death is attributed to suicide.

At Hove on Saturday the Sussex Press Club met the police at cricket. This was followed by a tea at the invitation of Mr. W. H. Speer, the pressmen afterwards visiting the Eden Terrace, the directors having kindly placed seats at their disposal.

Anna Rosa, while under the influence of drink, very deliberately attempted to commit suicide by jumping off the Victoria Pier, Douglas. Two porters named Lane and Sandford plucked her and rescued her. She was taken to the hospital.

While contemplating the body of a child was discovered on Saturday in the garden of a cottage at Newbridge, Mon. This is the third body unearthed during the week in the same plot of ground. None of the bodies have yet been identified.

A boatman named Philpott sailed out into the Downs last week from Deal in his lugger to the assistance of a disabled barque. He returned to the beach and hauled up his boat in the usual way. A short time afterwards the boat had disappeared.

The installation of Dr. Farrar as Dean of Canterbury took place at the Cathedral on Saturday afternoon. The Mayor and Corporation of Canterbury were present in full civic array, and a very large number of the diocesan clergy joined the chapter on the occasion.

Forty thousand pitmen were present on Saturday at the miners' demonstration at Durham. The gathering was addressed by Mr. John Burns, who said that the coal trade was depressed owing to the employment of so much unskilled labour in mines. A resolution was carried regretting the return to power of the Unionist Government.

At Brighton on Saturday a verdict of found drowned was returned at an inquest held on the body of a man dressed as a sailor who was washed ashore. On his guernsey were the letters R. A. Y. C. and the word Scotia. It will be remembered that a yacht bearing this name was sunk off Littlehampton on June 24, and it is believed the body found was that of one of the crew.

On Saturday, as a ferryman named George Chapman and his son were conveying a freight of hay for cattle from the mainland at Southport to Potton Island a sudden squall capsize the boat, and at this point the current is only about 50 ft. wide, the current is strong, and before assistance could be rendered the men were carried away and drowned. George Chapman leaves a widow and 10 children.

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## ATHLETICS.

**HONOURABLE AUXILIARY COMPANY.**  
The annual sports and military tournament of this regiment was held on the ground at Finsbury with the following results:  
**Hand and Post Competition.**—Rough-rid. Sergt. T. J. Callahan, H.A. 9 points; 1. Bomber, E. Chambers, H.A. 8; 2. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 5; 3. P.A. Vercoe, H.A. 4; 4. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 3; 5. Callahan and Chambers tied for first prize with 6 points each. On the deodar, Callahan won by 6 to 4.

**Hand and Post Competition.**—Bomber, E. Chambers, H.A. 11 points; 1. Sergt. F. P. Matthews, F.B. 6; 2. Rough-rid. Sergt. T. J. Callahan, H.A. 4; 3. Sergt. H. Kendall, F.B. 0; 4. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 5. Bomber, E. Chambers, H.A. 0; 6. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 7. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 8. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 9. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 10. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 11. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 12. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 13. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 14. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 15. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 16. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 17. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 18. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 19. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 20. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 21. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 22. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 23. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 24. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 25. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 26. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 27. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 28. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 29. Driver H. Attaway, H.A. 0; 30. Driver H. 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### SOME NOTABLE FACTS IN THE LATE ELECTION.

metropolitan boroughs. The seats were then elected by the ratepayers. In 1892 the Unionist Government was elected. In 1895 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1898 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1901 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1904 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1907 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1910 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1913 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1916 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1919 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1922 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1925 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1928 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1931 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1934 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1937 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1940 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1943 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1946 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1949 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1952 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1955 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1958 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1961 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1964 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1967 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1970 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1973 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1976 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1979 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1982 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1985 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1988 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1991 the Liberal Government was elected. In 1994 the Conservative Government was elected. In 1997 the Liberal Government was elected. In 2000 the Conservative Government was elected. In 2003 the Liberal Government was elected. In 2006 the Conservative Government was elected. In 2009 the Liberal Government was elected. In 2012 the Conservative Government was elected. In 2015 the Liberal Government was elected. In 2018 the Conservative Government was elected. In 2021 the Liberal Government was elected.

**Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Isle of Wight.**—Out of 79 members elected to Parliament (exclusive of two University members), 74 are U., and 5 are Separatists. In 1892 the members returned were in the proportion of 67 to 12, so that the U. gains have been 7.

**WALES.**—The U. hold 8 seats, as against 2 in 1892; the majority of Welsh Separatist members being only now 14, as compared with 28 in 1892. With only one or two exceptions, the majorities of the Separatists have been small. In the case of the Glamorgan North, Tydril, the majority, which in 1892 was 9,044, being reduced to 2,324, or a reduction of over 7,000 votes.

**SCOTLAND.**—In 1892 the U. held only 22 seats, and the Separatists 50; the U. now hold 33, against 39, so that whereas the Separatists majority in 1892 was 28, it is reduced to 6.

**ENGLAND.**—A whole.—Out of 465 seats the U. now hold 345, and the Separatists only 116; so that the "predominant partner," who was to be converted, has now a majority of 233 in the House of Commons, as against a majority of 71 only in the year 1892.

Generally, in 1892 of 40, the U. were in a minority of 19, and the Separatists were in a majority of 132, making a turn over of 192 votes, or a net gain of 96 seats. In England,

Wales, and Scotland together, 153 seats were left uncontested by the Separatists, while, on the other hand, there were only 11 Separatist seats not attacked. The total votes recorded in contesting the highest on each side, where two members were to be elected, was as follows:—

Unionist .....	1,723,003
Separatist .....	1,627,346
	95,657

But it must be remembered that the 11 U. seats uncontested represent an electorate of 1,268,471, while those of the 57 Separatist (including Irish seats) uncontested seats represent an aggregate of only 442,151, so that the U. majority would be enormously increased. But in any case the majority of 95,657 gives an average majority to each of the 96 seats won since 1892 of 1,000.

### TWO SUICIDES.

Two cases of deliberate suicide were investigated by coroners on Monday. At the Grove Mission Hall, Southwark, Mr. W. Watfield an innkeeper concerning the death of Mr.

Box, 25, domestic servant at the Duke of Sussex, Lambeth.—Priscilla Romain, of Erchfont Bottom, near Devizes, identified the body as being that of her daughter, who left home about four years ago as a companion to Eliza Ann Coolidge, a friend of deceased, and she had been keeping company with a soldier named Nicholls. A police constable stated that on the night of July 21 he was on duty on Waterloo Bridge and found a hat, jacket, umbrella, and pocket handkerchief, which he took to the police station. He had since been informed as belonging to deceased.—G. W. Carpw, lighterman, stated that he found the body floating in the river.—Suicide.—At Islington, Dr. Thomas inquired into the death of Edward Howell, a cooper, 25, of the Islington Road, for the company, lately lodging at Ockenden-road, Essex-road, who committed suicide by cutting his throat.—Verdict, suicide.

The Long Vacation judges, one of whom will sit in open court every Wednesday during the vacation to hear applications and motions arising in the Chancery Division requiring to be immediately dealt with, will be empowered to sit in open court on any day of the vacation. It will be put into the court paper under leave has been previously obtained on a certificate of counsel that the cases are urgent. One of the vacation judges will also attend at the Queen's Bench Judges' Chambers every Tuesday and Thursday to hear summonses and applications arising in the Queen's Bench Division.

**BRITISH EAST AFRICA.**

The two rebel leaders who recently created a slight disturbance at Takanga, a small place on the coast north of Mombasa, have now taken refuge with their Uncle Masrur, the chief of Gazi, at the mouth of the Ramu River in the south of the British Protectorate. The British Government, but it may possibly be necessary to use force to induce him to surrender the rebels, which he is at present unwilling to do. The resistance hitherto has been insignificant, and even if Masrur should join the rebels, it is unlikely to cause serious trouble.

**BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.**

Travellers who desire to spend the Bank Holiday in the Highlands of Scotland, or in the Lakes of the North, will find it convenient to book their tickets early, as the demand for places is likely to be very large.

The Victoria Steamboat Association on Bank Holiday are running excursions to Rosherville Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea, Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich. An extra steamer will leave from Wharf at 9 a.m. for Rosherville Gardens, Greenstead Island, Clacton-on-Sea, Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich. The boats leave New Dundee Wharf at 10 a.m. for Rosherville Gardens, Greenstead Island, Clacton-on-Sea, Felixstowe, Harwich and Ipswich.

The North London Railway Co. announce that trains will run every few minutes on Bank Holiday from Regent's Park, Zoological Gardens, Acton, and Kew Bridge for Kew Gardens, Epsom, and

In addition to the various excursions noted in last issue it will be seen that the S.W.R.C. are running on Bank Holiday a special trip to & from Exeter, Plymouth, Exmouth being 7s. and to Devon Exeter and Plymouth being 8s. 6d. Exmouth 11s. Southampton (Sa.) and Cowes (Ca. 6d.).

The Midland Railway announce cheap trips to 150 places in the West, at which places on Monday athletic sports will be held.

The London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway are running cheap trains from St. Pancras (Mid. South-end-on-Sea and Westfist-on-Sea via Barkin) on Monday. The return is 2s. 6d. and the full list of trains is annexed.











# "THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Small-print is unknown in Patagonia. Paper-bags are the latest invention. The Thames Embankment was opened 27 years ago.

The Queen will hold a Council at Osborne on the 10th inst.

A new treaty of commerce will shortly be concluded between Russia and Spain.

Germany claims in Africa a territory of nearly 1,000,000 miles of gold, silver, bronze, iron, copper, lead, and earthenware.

The native home of wheat is supposed to be the mountain regions of Armenia.

Frozen milk in large quantities is sent from Holland and Sweden to England.

When a Tartar invites a man to drink, he leads him forward to the table.

Of the 1,940 persons who died in London last week, many as 892 were infants under one year old.

Near Stockton, California, is an Arab colony, which cultivates Indian hemp and manufactures hashish from it.

Lord Salisbury, as Prime Minister, has appointed Mr. E. Cecil to be his assistant private secretary.

The Earl of Winchester has made a return of 20 per cent. to his agricultural tenants in the St. Leonards district of Lincolnshire.

Ear-piercing is going out of fashion. Now a form of ear-ring is made which clasps the lobe of the ear.

A curious present for a deaf person has been introduced in Germany—a fan deftly concealing a tin trumpet in its stick.

A man in Berlin breeds rats for the hospitals. They are used for vivisection purposes.

The press of Japan shows its respect for the Mikado by printing his name always in capital letters.

Canon Tristram's collection of stuffed birds, comprising 29,000 specimens and 6,300 species, has been secured for the Liverpool Museum.

Peter the Great of Russia is said to have known by name every officer and soldier in his bodyguard of 1,000 men.

Honduras was named by the Spanish in allusion to the depth of the water, on its coast. The word means "deep water."

"Flascoe" means a bottle or flask. When the Italian glassworkers detected flaws in the ware they were blowing, they made an ordinary bottle of the failure, and hence the name.

A strike has been ordered in New York by the executive of the United Brotherhood of Tailors. Nearly 20,000 men are out, mostly Jews.

Several men have been engaged in repairing the stonework of the Great Hall at Hampton Court, which had become somewhat dilapidated in parts.

The official trials of the 27-knot torpedo-boat destroyer Salmon took place at the mouth of the Thames with satisfactory results.

Telington is ambitious to have the electric light in its streets, and has petitioned the County Council for a loan of £51,000 for that purpose.

The Duke of Cambridge has left London for an extended tour on the Continent.

Several old companions in arms bade him farewell at Victoria Station.

Porous glass is a late novelty in the Paris market. The holes are so small that neither dust nor draught follows its use, and yet the ventilation is said to be excellent.

Old Indian villages and settlements are numerous in Nantucket. The ancient abodes of the first white settlers are still to be seen either fairly preserved or in absolute ruin.

Ten Jews were elected to the Italian Parliament at the first trial in the last election, the most prominent being the Minister of Finance, Sonnino.

It is unlawful in France for any person to give solid food to infants that are under one year, unless on the prescription of a physician.

The mole is not blind, as many persons suppose. Its eye is hardly larger than a pin head, and is carefully protected from dust and dirt by means of enclosing hairs.

A blow on the head seems to cause a wash of light in the eyes, because light is the only impression the optical nerve is capable of receiving.

Chimneys smoke because the carbon of the coal is disintegrated and drawn off by the heat instead of being consumed in the fire.

A furnace properly tended would not smoke, as all the fuel would be consumed.

The area of the British colonies is 8,000,000 square miles, that of the French 5,000,000, of the Dutch 600,000, of the Portuguese 200,000, of the Spanish 170,000, of the German 90,000, and of the Danish 74,000.

Mr. Lee Warner, who has been engaged for several years in the highest rank of political service in India, has been appointed chief of the Political Department of the India Office.

On the farm of Franklin Davis, in Wayne county, Maine, there is a maple tree measuring 21 feet in circumference, which has furnished sugar for the Davis family for the last 56 years.

The famous old vine at Hampton Court, which is now 127 years old, survived the last winter frosts, and is now covered with about 3,200 clusters of grapes. This is about the average number it produces.

Forty-eight members of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society are on a visit to Germany, in order to inspect the German forests, and to make themselves acquainted with the management of forests there.

M. Louis Boutan succeeded in taking some really fine photographs of the bottom of the sea by the aid of a newly-invented lamp for burning magnesium powder under the water.

Artificial eyes were first made in Egypt. They were of gold and silver, and cheaper ones were of ivory and copper. Hundreds of years later, in the 16th century, they were made in Europe of porcelain.

Black bones have been discovered and measured at Leipzig. He was buried in the Thomas Kirchhof 145 years ago, but within this century a street was built through the graveyard and many of the graves, including his, were obliterated.

The Princess of Wales has sent a present to each of the men, women, and children of the Somali Village, at the Crystal Palace, as a memento of the visit of H.R.H. The Somalis were highly delighted with the presents and distributed them.

The Duchess of Argyll is happy at last. Her statue of Joan of Arc has been unveiled at the last Paris Salon—according to some, because it was not believed to be really her own work, and, according to others, because the professionals were jealous of an amateur.

The thumb, according to professional palmists, is an unerring index to the mind. If a person is trying to deceive you, he will invariably draw his thumb in toward the palm. On the other hand, if he is telling the truth, the thumb will relax and point away from the palm.

The powder used in big guns is queer looking stuff. Each grain is a hexagonal prism, an inch wide and two-thirds of an inch thick, with a hole bored through the middle of it. In appearance it resembles nothing so much as a piece of wood. If you touch a match to it, it will take seven or eight seconds to go off.

The commercial race for China has begun. The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce has adopted a proposal in favour of sending a commercial mission to China, and particularly to the south and south-west provinces, with the object of studying the economic

conditions of that country as a field for the extension of British trade.

The first Atlantic cable was laid just 29 years ago.

The Bank of England received its charter of incorporation 201 years ago.

McBourne people are organising a testimonial to their veteran cricketer, H. F. Boyle. Mr. M. Young has been appointed to succeed Mr. Lee Warner as President of the Mayo.

The gold medal of the United Service Institution of India has been conferred on Col. J. Neville.

Alderman Sir W. Lawrence has sent a contribution of 50 guineas to the building fund of the Royal Free Hospital.

Prof. Judd has been appointed Dean of the Royal College of Science, in succession to the late Prof. Huxley.

Mary Carisburgh died in Liverpool Workhouse Hospital from the effects of burns sustained by the explosion of a paraffin lamp.

The Council of State of France has decided that meetings of the clergy to protest against the tax on monastic property are illegal.

Sir J. Goldsmid has been elected Vice-Chancellor of the London University, in succession to Sir J. Paget, resigning.

Ladies' Orange Club has been formed in Sydney under very favourable auspices. This is the first women's lodge instituted in New South Wales.

Lieut.-Col. Garis has been chosen as one of the commissioners under the Prison Act, 1887, in place of Maj.-Gen. Sir E. D. Cane, resigned.

D. Campbell has been selected for the command of the Scots Guards Regiment, in place of Col. Gascoigne, promoted to major-general.

Two men quarrelled while drinking at Upholland, Wigan. One named Mayor was killed to death, and the other, a man named Smith, is in custody.

Last week's shipments of coal from Scotland were exceptionally good. The total shows an increase of 141,180 tons, against the strike period last year.

A slight subsidence of the roadway occurred in Regent Circus. A portion about 12 feet square fell in, and for some time the traffic was stopped.

The death is announced from Brooklyn, at the age of 91, of Mr. E. Beecher, brother of the late H. W. Beecher, and of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The Haggerston Constitutional Association gave a banquet at the Holborn Restaurant to their newly-elected member, Mr. J. Lewis, M.P., when several M.P.s. were invited to celebrate the triumph of the guest of the evening.

Mrs. Slawson, wife of a journeyman baker, living in Hawks-road, Kingston-on-Thames, has just been confined with four children. All girls, three of whom are doing well. The fourth was still-born.

The number of passports issued by the American State Department is shown that more Americans are going to Europe this year than have gone in any previous one, except 1889 and 1891.

Political excitement appears to have had no effect on competition at the Auction Mart, Tokenhouse Yard. The amount realised last week exceeded £200,000. Small houses were most in demand.

At Exeter, Mr. Nixon, who has been elected for Wakefield, is the youngest member of the House of Commons. He was born on July 25, 1872, so he is only just 23. He is the heir to Earl Fitzwilliam.

Thomas Evans, William Davies, Henry Plucknett, and Charles Harris, were presented with the Royal Humane Society's certificate for saving life the Swansea steamship at the police court.

Mr. G. H. Heald, divisional police surgeon at Leeds, has been the recipient of a purse of gold subscribed by policemen in appreciation of his efficient instruction on first aid to the classes in connection with the St. John Ambulance Association.

The new British Navy is to be augmented. The Admiralty has adopted a proposal of the Military Committee for an extraordinary grant of 12,000,000 kroner to the Navy. Of this amount 8,000,000 kroner are for the construction of two new ironclads.

Russia retains consular representatives in 261 foreign ports and in 98 interior towns. The consular service includes 33 consuls-general, 78 consuls, 213 vice-consuls, and 45 consular agents. Of this total personnel 112 are Russians and 280 foreigners.

At the Glasgow Tramway and Omnibus Company meeting no dividend was paid, owing, it is stated, to the competition of the corporation cars. The directors propose, nevertheless, to pay the omnibus traffic, and if it does not then pay they will stop business.

While a man named Simpson, who travelled from Scotland to vote for Sir T. Lea at South Londonderry, was waiting in a hotel at Magherafelt, he was taken suddenly ill and died. Deceased was an old and infirm man.

On the extent to which a chimney can poison the atmosphere has been scientifically determined by a test made in Berlin. The root which comes out of the chimney of a single sugar refinery was gathered for six days and found to weigh 6,800 lb.

One of Sir H. Irving's most prized mementoes of his knightship was a suit of plate armour, which he presented by his old friend, Mr. Toole. The box, filled with choice Havanas, was passed about at Sir Henry's farewell banquet.

Astronomical observations on Mont Blanc will shortly commence. The Polar "siderostat," superseding the ordinary telescope, has reached Chamuniv, and been divided into sections not exceeding 10 lb. weight, and carried on men's shoulders to the observatory.

The total number of passengers carried on the Metropolitan Railway during the past half-year was 43,809,828, made up as follows: First-class, 3,369,942, a decrease of 34,214; second-class, 9,004,745, a decrease of 80,508; and third-class, 31,435,134, a decrease of 387,118.

At Rowley, Joseph Atwood, butcher, was charged with attempting to murder his son, aged 15. The prisoner quarrelled with his wife, and upon the lad protesting his mother from violence prisoner deliberately stabbed him in the throat and neck, inflicting terrible injuries. Remanded.

An inquest was concluded at Swansea concerning the death of three men who were killed in the explosion on the steamer Barbadian on July 6. A verdict of accidental death was returned, but the jury could not agree the jury were unable to state. A Board of Trade inquiry has been ordered.

An inquest was held at Tottenham on the body of an infant which was found in a parcel in Philip-lane. The medical evidence showed that death was due to suffocation. Some rage had been rammed down the baby's throat with an iron instrument, and such was the force used that the windpipe was completely crushed. Verdict, wilful murder.

According to the "Figaro," a discovery has been made in medicine which is destined to create as great a sensation as the discovery of the anti-toxin serum for diphtheria. M. Francisque Grotte, the well-known chemist, has discovered what is believed to be a remedy for phthisis. A series of remarkable cures are said to have been made by him in one of the hospitals in Paris.

A manufacturing firm in Birmingham drives something of a trade in crowns. They are real ones, of solid gold, with cap of crimson velvet, incrustations of garnet, topaz, and other kinds of cheap but showy stones, and are supplied to the kings of Africa, of whom there are several hundred, for a highly satisfactory return of ivory and other merchandise. The time has come when the ancient pig-tail adorned with turkey feathers sufficed to im-

part a halo of magnificence to Ethiopian royalty.

In Queen Elizabeth's reign watercourses were called "shamrock" in the Border Country. In Mexican theatres players pay for each act separately.

A woman has been appointed assistant city treasurer of Bangor, Maine.

There are about 700 golf clubs in Great Britain, with something like 33,000 members. The lamentable railway accident at St. Brieux is likely to seriously affect the pilgrimages season, which is now in full swing.

China now has 11 daily newspapers, nine of which are printed in Chinese, one in French, and the other in English.

Thirty thousand cigarettes were found hidden in 15 barrels of pineapples by the New York Customs officials last week.

It is believed to be Mr. Aquilino's intention to resume practice at the bar. He will confine himself to special kinds of work.

The Mohawk Indians will not allow so much as a blade of grass to grow upon the graves of their companions.

Grapes are said to be almost as good as quinine for malaria troubles, and pineapple is reported to be a cure for some kinds of sore throat. "Family Doctor."

The American Indian measures distances while canoeing by "pipe." One pipe is the interval between the battings that he is allowed to make for a smoke.

Thirty names of the most prominent family names in "Muller" and there are said to be no fewer than 650,000 Germans who claim this patronymic.

A sum of nearly £10,000 has now been received at the central office of the London Hospital Saturday Fund on behalf of the present year's collection.

Glasgow has been fixed upon for the National Council of Home Sol-faists, which will be held in September under the presidency of the Lord Provost.

There was some novelty at Henley which may be heard of again. A sculler had a small mirror fixed in front of him, so that he could direct his course by it.

The Memorial Church to Lord Nelson, at Burnham Thorpe, in Leicestershire, is to be opened by the Bishop of Norwich on Aug. 1. The cost of the building is £5,000.

A German translation of Mr. Balfour's "The Foundations of Belief" will be brought out almost immediately by a well-known Leipzig firm of publishers.

"General" Booth, the head of the Salvation Army, leaves England on Aug. 10 for a fresh tour of South Africa, Australasia, and India.

It is feared from the stoppage of the Great Wheel at Earl's Court have now disappeared. On the 27th ult. there was over 13,000 visitors. Monday's records beat it by 500.

Near Kharokoff a foreign company has just acquired a site of 100 acres at a cost of 120,000 roubles for the establishment of railway engineering works, which will employ 5,000 hands.

A significant copy of the Declaration of Independence, printed on silk, and forwarded by Mr. McBride, a wealthy American, as a present to the Pope, has been received at the Vatican.

Mr. Waddy perpetrated a "bull" at Leeds Assizes the other day which would have done credit to a milkmaid. The other side of the Irish said, "What!" he asked the witness, "What age of your oldest son, aged 32?"

The Marquis of Exeter succeeds to the quaint old hereditary office of Grand Almoner. It involves no duties or salary, having been doctored of them in favour of appointed officials.

It is rumoured at St. Martin's-le-Grand that, as a result of the recent inquiry into postal grievances by a Parliamentary committee, the sorters will receive considerable benefits.

The Right Rev. Dr. Burdon has resigned the Bishopric of Victoria, Hong Kong, which he has held for 21 years. Dr. Burdon went out to China as a missionary as far back as the year 1852.

On a recent Sunday 2,000 people stood on the banks of Cobham's Pond, in Maine, and witnessed the baptism of 44 persons. Among the candidates were an old gentleman and his great-grandson.

The great organisation of the elementary school teachers, the National Union of Teachers, is taking steps with a view to impressing on the Government the advisability of dealing with the superannuation question.

It is stated that Mr. A. B. Forster, M.P. for the Ormskirk Division of Lancashire, has been offered and has accepted a baronetcy.

Diamond drills are made by setting the borts, or small black diamonds, in the edge at the end of a brass or steel rod or tube, so that the diamond cuts the hole of the material. They will bore harder than steel.

Nowhere does the artichoke grow to greater perfection than in the Orkney Islands. Successful culture is said to result from the plentiful supply of seaweed with which the ground is annually dressed.

In Germany, when the vote of the jury stands six against six prisoner is acquitted. A vote of seven against six leaves the prisoner in the dock, and in a vote of eight against four prisoner is convicted.

Mr. J. Redmond, according to the "Dublin Independent," has passed through London on his way to Portland, having obtained permission from Sir M. White-Ridley to pay a private visit in Portland to Mr. J. Daly, M.P. for Limerick.

Mr. J. Blacklock, of Oxford-square, Hyde Park, is engaged on an oil painting of the re-opening of the choir of Norwich Cathedral, which, it is hoped, may be ready for exhibition on the visit of the Church Congress in October next.

The Russian Government have decided to have church cars constructed for use on the Trans-Siberian Railway. These cars will carry up and down the line, and will enable the inhabitants in the region traversed to enjoy religious services at frequent intervals.

Serious disturbances have taken place in Lisbon in consequence of reports which had been spread that priests had been guilty of child-stealing. Crowds assembled in the streets and attacked a number of priests, pursuing them for some distance and injuring many. The police succeeded in dispersing the mob and made some arrests.

It may not be generally known that yacht racing was started as a sport for royalty. Indeed, in the early days of yachting only the heads of royal houses possessed a yacht. In an old dictionary, dated 1755, devoted to the explanation of every-day words and expressions, the term "yacht" is defined to be "a small ship or pleasure boat, seldom more than 100 tons, for the king's use."

An omnibus was proceeding through a narrow and busy street in Plymouth, when the horses took fright and the vehicle collided with a wagon, and was immediately overturned and almost entirely wrecked.

Richard Hoskins, the driver, was thrown violently to the pavement and sustained severe injuries to his leg. No passengers were on the top of the bus, but five persons inside were much hurt.

A picturesque little ceremony has just taken place at the annual speech day of St. Olave's Grammar School, which owes its foundation to the charity of "Good Queen Bess." Many years ago the governors of this ancient school made a grant of money to the parish for the purpose of erecting a school, and it was fixed as one red rose, and from that date to this it has never been in arrears. The value of the land has increased immeasurably, of course,

and, as a set-off to this, the trustees now pay a whole bouquet of roses in rent.

On Sunday, at the New Gallery, Sir Henry Irving gave a farewell banquet to his private friends on the eve of his departure for the United States.

It is stated that the last has not yet been heard of the Worrall divorce suit, the co-respondent, the Rev. H. W. Jones, having decided to take the opinion of the Court of Appeal upon the verdict of the jury at the last hearing.

Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Russell Sage, and Miss Stanton are interesting themselves in a movement to erect a monument at Seneca Falls, New York, to Mrs. Bloomer, the lady who first had the courage to don the garment that now bears her name.

The German Reed Company have purchased a site in Charing Cross-road, near the Garrick Theatre, on which will be built a handsome new hall, where entertainments of the same character as those so long popular at the St. George's Hall will be given.

By comparing the statistics of English and Scotch Universities in a given year it was found that Scotland, with a population of 3,725,000, had 6,500 University students, while England had only 6,000 students out of a population about six times as great.

The introduction of the lemon tree into Europe is due to the Caliphs during their invasion of the West. The lemon thus transplanted was found by the Crusaders in Syria and Palestine towards the end of the 11th century.

The Home Secretary has ordered the release of Charles Bailey, who was sentenced to a month's hard labour for assaulting a bailiff named George at Bickley, and has ordered the prosecutor to be charged with perjury, it being clear that Bailey was not present when the assault was committed.

A few years ago Sir E. Vincent acquired the fine Esher Park estate in Surrey, which is full of associations of Cardinal Wolsey. Sir Edgar has now made a large addition to the property by the purchase of the adjoining Coombe Lamas Estate, which has been in the market for some time.

A boating party from Bitterbourne were sailing in a barge, with two girls of the Sheppey Coast while big gun practice was in progress. A shell exploded near the barge, and one fragment passed through the fore-sail, close to where two persons were sitting, but nobody was hurt.

Whilst on a swing-boat, at Preston, a young woman named Annie Whittle, of Midson-street, Preston, was seized with distress, and, falling back her head, was drowned, with the result that her head was fractured, and she died in a few minutes. A young man, who attempted to save her, had his leg broken.

The German ironclad Weorth, Capt. Prince Henry of Prussia, with a German torpedo boat, anchored in Falmouth Harbour, the object of the call being to bury a seaman who had died on board. The funeral took place at Falmouth Cemetery, a number of men-of-war's men being present.

Sir H. Irving will sail for New York in the steamship City of New York from Southampton on Aug. 31. His company, consisting of nearly 100 persons and carrying about 700 tons of scenery and dresses, left Southampton in the steamship Southwark on Aug. 1.

Prince Bismarck was recently the recipient of a handsome present in the shape of a chess-board inlaid with alternate squares of yellow and milk-white amber laid on an under-surface of gold. The figures, which are marvelously carved, are also of amber, and each minute detail is faultlessly carried out.

The governor of Cairo has expressed his regret and addressed apologies to Sir F. W. Forestier Walker, commander-in-chief of the British troops in Egypt, for the behaviour of the mob of Egyptians who threw stones at a detachment of British troops attending the funeral of a comrade in Cairo on the 21st ult. This closes the incident.

An inquest has been held at Windhill touching the death of William Bonfield, 40, plush weaver, who was last month committed for trial at Bradford on a charge of assaulting his step-daughter, Emma Fisher, on July 25, the day on which he ought to have surrendered himself for trial at Leeds Assizes, his body was taken from the canal at Windhill.

While visiting a London hospital the other day, the Princess of Wales spoke to all the patients in turn, and kindly gave each one of the beautiful flowers out of her bouquet. At one bed a tiny little lad, about two years old, had been taught to say, "Welcome, princess," but afterwards, when he received his flower, the poor child relapsed into his natural speech, and simply said "Ta."

The largest piece of gold in the world was taken from Byer and Halmston's gold-mining claim, Hill End, New South Wales, May 10, 1872. Its weight was 640 lb.; height, 4 ft. 9 in.; value, nearly £30,000. It was found imbedded in a thick wall of ore slates, at a depth of 250 ft. from the surface. The owners of the mine were living on charity when they found it.

When taken at an early age, the beaver soon becomes very tame and much at home in the house of his host. They are so popular in Canada as pets that one or more of them is found at nearly every trading-post in the North-west. Nor is it unusual to find a running stream of Indian lodges, playing with the dusky children and living with them on terms of perfect equality.

Mr. Finlay used to sit near Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons. After a time, however, Mr. Gladstone grew bored by Mr. Finlay's proximity, and it became one of the old gentleman's bitterest complaints that whenever he turned round to find out whether any sympathy and encouraging cheers from his rear-guard, he was invariably confronted by the wooden visage of Mr. R. B. Finlay.

A meeting of British subjects who have remained in Madagascar since the outbreak of the war has been held. The British consular authorities there present, and urged all the residents to leave the island, and to return to their homes in this country, because the Hova Government continued to declare its determination to resist the French advance, and also because the feeling among the natives against Europeans in general was on the increase.

At Douglas, John James Brew, a middle-aged boatman, father of six children, was charged with a criminal assault on Fanny Quaise, aged 10. Defendant was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour, and ordered at the expiration of the term to find bail for good conduct for six months, otherwise to remain in goal for a further period of six months. The sentence was greeted with applause by the other boatmen present.

The hog products which command the highest prices in the English markets come from countries that are not noted for the growth of maize—such as England, Ireland, and Denmark. The quality and consequent high price of English, Irish, and Danish bacon are attributed in part to the feeding of the pig and in part to the method of curing the bacon. The best quality of bacon, it is alleged, is procured by the use, as foods, of barley, yeast, whole boiled potatoes, skim milk, buttermilk, and whey.

Charles Dickens's desk, which has been given by Mr. Bancroft to the South Kensington Museum, has been suitably placed in the Forster Library. It bears the following inscription:—"This desk belonged for many years to Charles Dickens, and was last used by him in the hours before he died, on July 9, 1870. His estate afterwards gave it to Edmund Yates, at whose death it was sold by public auction, on Jan. 2, 1895, and bought

by S. B. Bancroft, who presented it to the South Kensington Museum."

Three tons and a half of cherries have been sent to London from the Sittingbourne district.

The Queen is to hold an investiture of the Bath and other Orders next week in the Council Chamber at Osborne.

An earthquake, lasting several minutes, is reported to have taken place in the town of Krasnodar, on the Caspian Sea. Fifteen houses fell in burying 13 men.

Mr. J. W. Clark has been appointed legal adviser to the Board of Agriculture, in the place of Mr. C. Wood, who returns from the public service.

The Mexican Government has put into effect the recent decree reducing the letter postage from 10 cents to five cents. Other postal rates are correspondingly reduced.

The sum of £27,000 in bar gold was on July 31 bought by the Bank of England, while £3,000 in sovereigns was withdrawn for Rio de Janeiro, making a net influx of £24,000 since the date of the last return.

The word Pharaoh was not, strictly speaking, a name of an individual, but of a class or race. For ages all the Egyptian kings called themselves Pharaohs, just as the Roman emperors were each styled Augustus.

A female parachutist, who ascended at Glasgow nearly lost her life. She became entangled in the cords of the parachute and fell into the Clyde. She was rescued with difficulty by a seaman.

Manchester draws its water from the Lake district. It is carried to the city by a new railway, Birmaham, also, has gone to Wales, and is constructing waterworks at Eilan, Rhayader, in Radnorshire.

The English money system of pounds, shillings, and pence is derived from the Roman imperial system, and variations of it prevail in Turkey and other Asiatic countries which formerly belonged to Rome.

The Act of Union of the Kingdoms of Cyprus and the Colonies that a 10 days' quarantine has been imposed on arrivals there from Anamoor to Alexandretta, excluding the latter place.

The death is announced of Mr. R. H. Shepherd, bibliographer, aged 83. At the time of his death he was engaged in compiling a bibliography of Coleridge for "Notes and Queries," and in preparing for the press a bibliography of Tennyson.

The Russian Volunteer Fleet is rapidly developing into a very powerful and useful auxiliary flotilla to the Imperial Navy. All the Volunteer steamers are so constructed and fitted as to be readily converted into fairly well armed and manned gunboats.

The widow of the late Dr. Sheppard, of Canterbury, has received from the Civil Service Pension Fund a grant of £200, in acknowledgment of the services rendered by Dr. Sheppard to the cause of historical research.

A young seaman, named Charles Pearson, mate of the vessel Gertrude, of the Post Office, was killed when he was knocked overboard into Poole Harbour and drowned. Pearson was the son of the captain.

By permission of the Dean of St. Paul's, the memorial to Mr. Randolph Caldecott has been placed in the crypt of the cathedral. It bears the following inscription:—"At the death of Mr. Randolph Caldecott, an artist, a bibliographer, and a collector of books, his family and friends have gathered here to mourn his loss, and to record his virtues as a man and as a citizen."

A committee which has been sitting in secret session in America will soon publish its decisions as to the time and place at which the convention of delegates of the Irish societies of the United States and Canada is to be held in order to revive the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

The festival of the Holy Trinity at the Worcester Cathedral has long been among the recognised musical events in the province. The towns on the Scottish border are now instituting a "Border Towns Gunpowder Festival," of which Princess Louise is a patron.

The chief sensation of the Paris Exhibition of 1900 will consist of a new bridge over the Seine 100 metres broad, and with houses, theatres, and monuments on either side of it, like the Pont Neuf in olden days, not to mention old London Bridge. It will span the Seine from the Champs Elysees to the Invalides.

Experiments indicate that spiders have a long range of vision. It is not always possible to tell, however, whether the lower animals perceive by sight or hearing, or by the action air in motion has on their bodies. It is asserted that mice are sensitive to motions of the air, which to human ears create no sound whatever.

An extraordinary accident took place at Manchester. The driver along Pin Mill Brow when the roadway suddenly subsided. The great engine was entirely buried, only the funnel appearing above the ground. The driver had a narrow escape from a terrible death. He managed to leap off as his engine went into the abyss.

How low an ebb the dramatic season has declined may be inferred from the fact that no fewer than 17 of the London theatres are now closed. The managers of the houses still remaining open announce a few events of interest in the immediate future, but the turning of the tide to full flood is not to be expected before September, which promises to be a very busy month.

At the present time there is living in one room in a neglected quarter of London a once world-renowned soprano, whom 80 years ago everyone was vying to hear. Reviews have swallowed up all her savings, and now, utterly forgotten by those who were once her devoted admirers, she lives, or rather exists, on the bounty of two or three fellow professionals upon whom for some time she has been dependent.

A telegram from Montalban reports a terrible affair which has occurred there. A farmer named Lafitte, 72, became insane during a violent thunderstorm. After strangling his wife, and throwing her body down a well, he shut his grandson up in the farmhouse and set fire to it, after which he hanged himself in the barn. Fortunately the fire was observed by his neighbours, who rescued the child, but the house was destroyed.

This year there are on the Thames 379 swans, old and young, belonging to the Queen and the Dyers and Vinters Companies. The census is taken annually by Her Majesty's swanherd and the officials of the City Guilds, who mark the birds according to their crest, ship, and the voyage which is undertaken for the present season on July 27, covers about 60 miles of the river, from Southwark Bridge to Marsh Lock, Henley.

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